

CASE TD/4-22777/MA 2229/APCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF  
NORMAN STEWART BATTY ET AL  
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 03/12062  
FILED: October 30, 2003  
FOR: THICKENING AGENTS COMPRISING A  
CROSSLINKED POLYMER POWDER  
U.S. APPLICATION NO: UNASSIGNED  
35 USC 371 DATE:

Group Art Unit: unassigned  
Examiner: unassigned

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application without prejudice as follows, prior to calculation of the filing fee and consideration on the merits.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.